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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS claims 2, 4-13, 15, 16, and 19-22 and CANCELS claim 1.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, and 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claim 2 in independent form to include all the features of base claim 1 and has amended the remaining claims to depend upon claim 2.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 12, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (JP 9-326661). Claims 16, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Kawakatsu et al. (U.S. 5,568,002). As noted above, Applicant has canceled claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 21, and 22.

As noted above, Applicant has rewritten claim 2 in independent form to include all the features of base claim 1 and has amended the remaining claims to depend upon claim 2. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-22 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Takahashi.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a TWO-month extension of time, extending to October 22, 2003, the period for response to the Office Action dated May 22, 2003.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,



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